

Psychiatric Examination

To: Sir William Webb, President of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

From: Yushi Uchimura, M. D., Professor of Psychiatry, Tokyo Imperial University, the appointed psychiatric examiner.

Subject: Report of the Psychiatric Examination on the mental condition of Shumei OKAWA.

Date: May 11, 1946.

Sir William Webb, President of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, ordered on May 4th 1946, that Dr. Shumei OKAWA be medically examined by psychiatrists with a view to ascertaining his mental condition and his capacity to plead to the indictment. Having been appointed for the purpose by Mr. Shinichi OHARA, Japanese Defense Counsel for Dr. Shumei OKAWA, I, Yushi UCHIMURA, examined Dr. OKAWA twice on May 7th and 9th respectively at the 361st Station Hospital. Based on the results of these examinations and the additional information gathered from his wife, Ivane MATSUI and two guardians who were familiar with the daily life of Dr. OKAWA at Sugamo Prison, I have arrived at the following opinion on his mental condition as reported herewith.

Report of Psychiatric Examination

(a) Mental Condition

OKAWA is a Japanese male, taller than the average and has an appearance in keeping with his age of 61. When brought to the room for medical examination, he took a seat unceremoniously without making any greeting to those around him, and before the examiner could introduce himself, began to talk to him familiarly as if he were an old acquaintance. OKAWA's speech was rapid, loquacious, somewhat indistinct, and flowed on almost uninterruptedly. His attire was slovenly and his manners extremely rude. Giving absolutely no heed to his surroundings,

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he spoke out elatedly anything and everything that came to his mind. After a while, however, when I asked him to let me conduct an oral and physical examination, he complied with my request on the whole submissively. Only in a few cases when the process of examination was lengthy, he showed signs of impatience and refused to submit. His talk was very fluent and ran on topics of religion, politics and science, erotic remarks being also not infrequently inserted. Criticisms and appraisals of other people were highly outspoken, as he tended to speak highly of himself at the expense of others. The sense of self was conspicuously heightened and made OKAWA fancy himself as the greatest man under the sun. In a word, he presented in general a condition entirely devoid of inhibition.

OKAWA spoke in Japanese freely mixed with English and German, not seldom using only English. He had an ample stock of topics which easily shifted from one to another, often before one had reached its conclusion. His feelings during the conversation were extremely exalted and exhilarated, and his facial expression showed a corresponding liveliness. But when met with opposition or retort, he immediately became highly displeased and assumed a contemptuous attitude towards the examiner as if he despised the stupidity or ignorance of the latter. This ill temper, however, usually would not last long, but would soon be replaced by the former happy mood in which OKAWA would go on talking as cheerfully as ever.

Such a speech and conduct lacking in restraint and such an unbalanced emotional state rapidly changing from a joyful mood to ill humour, show in themselves a definite abnormal mental condition that is never to be found in a healthy individual in normal condition. Moreover, according to his wife and relatives, OKAWA ordinarily is said to be rather taciturn, patient and extremely correct in his toilet and manners. In view of these facts, there is no doubt that the mental condition presented by OKAWA at the medical examination was definitely out of the normal. To put it in psychiatric terms, it is to be called typical manic states.

But this manic condition is not constant during the whole day. In his room OKAWA scatters about tobacco ashes, writes disconnected things by way of letters, gives imperious orders to his nurse, but is said to be usually quiet when few people are around him, and to sleep well at night giving no trouble to his surroundings by making noise. That is to say, OKAWA's manic condition varies according to the milieu and is highly dependent upon the amount of external stimuli. Even at its strongest, his excitement never reaches such a frenzy as to make him lose all distinction of persons or places or to go beyond a certain limit in his actions. It is a condition of diminished inhibition, but not entirely lacking in restraint. Therefore, we believe we can summarize it as a mental condition corresponding to the psychiatric term of hypomanic state.

Of all the mental symptom presented by OKAWA, what draws most the attention of the people around him and gives most the impression of a psychosis is the content of his thoughts. Befitting his cheerful mood, his thought content is not only remarkably optimistic, but also markedly grandiose in character. Not only does he give an exaggerated account of his work, abilities and circumstances, but also very often states as facts fantastic ideas that a normal person could never hold true, but which OKAWA seems to believe in. Consequently these are not merely exaggerated ideas, but are actually delusions of grandeur with absurd contents. Following are given some quotations from OKAWA's talk illustrating the nature of the delusions of grandeur. They may at the same time also serve to show how morbidly exalt his sense of self is, and how constantly the topics of conversation keep changing under the stress of an abundant flow of ideas. (Note: these words were spoken Japanese unless otherwise specified.)

"In Sugamo Prison, I did not eat because I can take nutritive elements from the air. That's why I am in such a perfect health even though I didn't eat for seventy days. I'm a doctor, so I know everything about it".

"I am a doctor of medicine, science and engineering. I received the Nobel prize three times. The subjects of my theses I forgot because it's so long since

I have also atomic bombs ready in my head. There is plenty of uranium to make them with. There is also tungstenAnd I'll make the Japanese Emperor the Pope, Listen, all of you. I'll make him bow to the Emperor before everybody ... Don't you know, I was the only popular man in the prison".

"I can walk on water. One simply has to keep the air in one's body a vacuum. Nothing is easier than walking on water like Christ."

"I have only 23,000 yen, because I gave everything to others. Since long I have given 500,000 yen a year, that makes about 50,000,000 yen in all".

"I can kill people very easily by breathing upon them. Just as I get nutritive elements from the air, I can make strychnine and cyanic acid from it. And I have only to blow that at them. I wanted to kill Tojo in that way at the Court, too. I slapped him with my hands because otherwise I couldn't make it a comedy".

"On July 4, I am to become the Empress Dowager's son-in-law in place of the late Emperor Taisho. But I'm going to resign when the United Organization of the world will be set up. Mrs. MacArthur comes here everyday and looks after every thing for me. She makes my bed, and strokes me saying, "My boy, my boy, you will soon get well". (Tears come to his eyes.) I call her mamma". (He seems to be taking his nurse for Mrs. MacArthur)

"I learned how to make hallucinations from Gandhi when I was about forty. I see and hear Christ and Mohammed calling me from the sky. I would like to go, but if I go, I'll die and I'll not be able to serve my country. That's why I've tied a string to my waist so that I can't go".

"This trial is a kind of tactics. It's a natural action and not a moral action ... (in English) Suppose one throws a ball and it falls. Then we can see the ball stop. But actually it rolls on for a little while by inertia. In the same way the war is going on yet. It is not an ordinary court. It is a continuation of the war. If so, Mac must be hanged before General Yamashita and General..

It had better be called a tactics, therefor it is like a bullet, airplane or atomic bomb. (in Japanese) You can kill people by any means. It is more advantageous to kill by means of such a trial than with a gun". (in Japanese) "In Japan there are stupid soldiers and men like Shozaburo Yokota. I'm going to tell it to the Emperor and have them expelled immediately. International Tribunal is not an object of jurisprudence, but of the science of war. Overlooking such an obvious fact, and taking this for a real trial, they, Japanese as they are, say flatteries in order to curry favor with MacArthur and give interpretations that are to the disadvantage of our miserable war criminals. Therefore I told them, "MacArthur may go any length, but since we're still fighting in the battle field, you've got to resign yourselves even though a bullet hits you and kills you; It's a natural action, and up to now the general principle was" Really, aren't people damned stupid? Stupid Japanese! Don't you understand such an important fact? Even though I die, I'll resurrect within 48 hours, sure like Jesus resurrection, but mine may take a little more time. Put it simply, yes. God's judgment is justice; (in English) That is morality. Now this trial is not an ordinary court. As I said before, the criterium of judgment is not bad or good. That is moral. The standard of judgment is useful or useless. The clearest enemy is Mac Arthur I. Then you can do everything with such a gun. But such a gun cannot penetrate my armor at all."

"(in Japanese) At Sugamo, they were all discussing how to escape the sentence but I told them they've got to die all since it's a natural force. I asked the Emperor to let them all die since they have all committed the same crime. At the end this sham show will be over and morality will reign for the first time. I'll have the Emperor conduct a moral trial. "hen the Emperor will give the last sentence, this natural action will become a moral action. We'll tell Mac, "Why have you judged guilty those innocent people?" and make him beg pardon, And I'll re-

surrect

"I've received 20,000,000 dollars from mamma. She's very nice. Both Mrs. MacArthur and her daughter come here and do the cleaning even for the nigger. They even feed him. Oh, they're wonderful. Yesterday I asked Mrs. MacArthur, (in English) "Mamma, how many times did you enjoy MacArthur last night"? Then she scolded me saying "Bad boy, bad boy".

"(in Japanese) In order to make Heaven come to this earth, I'm mobilizing scholars from all over the world. General MacArthur also is asking pardon saying that he was wrong. When the trial will be over, Heaven will come to Japan. I've talked over with General MacArthur, and the result is, the indemnities have been all cancelled. And the occupation expenses are not to be borne by us but will be given by them. The more money one uses, the greater is the ill-felling one gets among the Japanese. That's why I receive money from General MacArthur. You don't understand because you're poor."

"General MacArthur comes to take his meals here. He's a very nice person. He's like General Yamashita, in his wisdom and like General Itagaki in his pluck. He's a great friend of mine".

"By next April all the old houses surviving the air - raids will be torn down and instead of them 1,000,000 new houses will be built, all a gift from mamma. So reconstruction is quite easy, easier than anything. Why should it be impossible? Also about the food problem, there's nothing to worry since there are 400,000,000 sheep in China. I can go over there and kill them or give them cyanic acid".

We see here many ideas that are highly absurd considering they are uttered by such a cultured individual as OKAWA. Therefore, I wondered whether they were not said by way of jokes or on purpose. But OKAWA was extremely serious about them, and always reacted with ill humour when such questions were asked. Consequently I

judged from it that such words as the above represent actual delusions of grandeur. A problem arises here as to whether this may not be a phenomenon caused by a lowering of intelligence. On the papers used by OKAWA for writing are written in a disordered handwriting many a fragmentary sentences and words, which may make one suspect a fall of OKAWA's intellectual level. But according to our numerous experience of cases of manic states, grandiose delusions and altered handwriting are symptoms that can occur without a lowering of the intellectual faculties. OKAWA's grandiose delusions keep coming one after another continuously, the former fading away as another takes its place so that it is seldom that delusions with similar contents are repeated. That is, those delusions of grandeur are fluctuating and do not have the fixed and systematized character of delusions seen in paranoid cases. Among OKAWA's delusions there are many that can be considered as transient products of a cheerful mood and an elated sense of self. And this is a characteristic usually seen in the delusions held in a manic condition.

There are no other remarkable mental symptoms. Clouding of consciousness can not be proved. His memory for remote events seems to be fairly correct. But every time I tried to examine his memory precisely, and systematically, he did not give me appropriate answers, saying: "I do not remember such useless matter". Therefore, I must be satisfied with estimation of his memory through conversations in general. His memory for recent events could be tested by such questions as what he ate this morning, and was found to be somewhat defective. However, it can not be immediately concluded with this that it shows the impairment of his intelligence, because this kind of weakness can be often observed in a manic state merely due to fluctuation of attention. Even if his intelligence may be already impaired, I believe that the impairment must be very slight yet, taking the whole picture of his in consideration.

(b) Physical Condition

Through physical examination, I obtained the following findings which are suffi

cient to explain the cause of the mental symptoms.

The most important somatic findings are: (1) Syphilitic reaction (Kahn reaction) of the blood serum is strongly positive; (2) Various pathological changes in the spinal fluid, especially here too a strongly positive syphilitic reaction (Wassermann reaction); other changes are: lymphocytosis (40/10mm); increase of the total amount of protein (0.68%); Pandy and Nonne-Apize reactions strongly positive; Takata-Ara reaction strongly positive. Among them the Takata-Ara reaction is typically of the parotic type, a form of reaction that is widely recognized as appearing most frequently in general paralysis. (3) Other important symptoms contributing to the diagnosis are: Sluggish reaction of the pupils to light; Asymmetrical knee-jerks, the right side failing; Achilles-tendon reflex lost on both sides; -all of which are generally known as symptoms frequently seen in general paralysis.

Other somatic symptoms are: a light murmur in the aortic tone of the heart, and a change in elektrecardiogram suggesting an insufficient function of the aortic valve. But neither subjectively nor objectively are to be found further signs of actual circulatory disorders corresponding to the above symptoms. In X-ray film is seen a calcification of the descending aorta, representing either arteriosclerosis corresponding to OKAWA's age or a syphilitic vascular change. In any case it is not to be considered a noteworthy symptom, nor does it have any direct connection with the mental condition of the patient. Similarly in Z-ray film there is a shadow over a wide area extending from the apex to the 3rd intercostal space bilaterally that appears to be tuberculous in nature. It represents, however, an old lesion and is not active at present. According to his wife, OKAWA suffered from severe "colds" once or twice in the past, which might have been the illness that brought about those shadows, but nothing can be ascertained in this respect. The blood pressure, 150 mm Hg at the highest and 50 mm Hg at the lowest, is about proportionate to his age. A trace of protein is found in urin. In the ocular fundus is seen a picture of a slight arteriosclerosis, but it is also merely a sign corres-

pending to OKAWA's age and is of no special significance.

Summing up the results of the physical examination, we recognize some typical symptoms of general paralysis providing sufficient explanations to OKAWA's present mental condition, but the rest of the symptoms are slight and of no importance.

Explanatory Remarks

From the record of the psychiatric examination stated above, I am in a position to give an unquestionable diagnosis of the condition presented by OKAWA. It is the syphilitic disease of the brain called general paralysis (dementia paralytica) in its manic or expansive form. I have been able to ascertain the presence of all the symptoms necessary for the diagnosis of this mental disease. According to the statement of his wife and relatives; OKAWA has been generally healthy ever since he was born on December 6, 1886, throughout his childhood, youth and adult periods, and has experienced no marked disease except neuralgia and "colds". Since graduating from the Department of Indian Philosophy, Tokyo Imperial University, he is said to have never been hindered in his social activities by reasons of health. But since his thirties, he seems to have been connected with certain women, and his infection of venereal diseases must be dated sometime around this period. His marriage is said to have been postponed till his 41st year partly because of his having gonorrhoea. His character is by nature fastidious and methodical, nervous and passionate. Being reticent, however he is usually unable to ask a person to shorten his visit and rather than asking he listens patiently to his visitor's talk for hours. Polite in his manners and correct in his attire, he has a high taste especially in his dress. Such a character and habits have continued till his entrance in Sugamo Prison in January of 1946, and neither neurasthenic complaints nor psychotic conduct have been noticed at all up to that time. The only point to be considered as showing an abnormal constitution is his peculiar reaction to alcohol. From the first he drank but little, but used to get excited with a small amount of alcohol. As this

peculiarity of his became more pronounced since his fifties, those around him usually tried to make him avoid drinking. In his alcoholic excitement, OKAWA is said to become rude, talkative and irritable in his feelings, a condition that must be somewhat similar to his present state.

According to the statement of the former General Iwane MATSUI, an old acquaintance of OKAWA's and his roommate at Sugamo Prison from the beginning of March this year, OKAWA at first showed no change from his usual self. But from the end of March he began complaining of troubles in sleep and using sleeping drugs. At first he busied himself reading through most of Gibbon's History of Rome, but around the beginning of April, he started writing down his past experiences saying he felt unwell and wondered why he was able to write such humorous and interesting things as he did not believe himself capable of. About the middle of April, he began reciting the sutras to the Kannon goddess, getting more and more engrossed in it so that finally he said he was being possessed by the goddess. Also around this time he learned how to make poetry in the old Chinese way becoming likewise quite absorbed in day and night and making about fifty poems in ten days. Since about that time he became disorderly in his attire, wrote a letter to General MacArthur to the effect that the supreme commander should be more kind to the Japanese, and said that if Mrs. MacArthur read that letter, she would surely send him at least some books. Both MATSUI and one of the guardians say that OKAWA became markedly excited from the end of April, staying awake all night, knocking at the door and talking loudly so as to occasion complaints among those around him. He is then said to have boasted he is the commander of the prison. A visitor who saw him on April 25, also noticed OKAWA's abnormal mental condition.

Inferring from the above anamnesis and statements, it appears that the onset of illness took place after OKAWA's entrance in Sugamo Prison, beginning with neurotic symptoms from the end of March, showing signs of a slight exaltation from

the beginning of April, and developing into a clearly psychotic condition by the end of April. Such a course at the onset of illness is often seen in general paralysis.

General paralysis is a severe disease of the nervous system caused by pathogenic organisms of syphilis contracted long before coming to invade a wide area of the brain and the spinal cord. Unless adequate therapy is given at the earliest period possible, the disease will make a constant progress and after two or three years will cause a general enfeeblement usually leading to death. The disorders of mental functions are most conspicuous, showing in the initial stage mainly such emotional troubles as manic or depressive conditions, but subsequently in all cases accompanied with serious impediments of the intelligence so that finally the patient falls into a severe condition of dementia which deprives him of all human traits.

The present mental condition of OKAWA is, as above stated, a manic state rich in grandiose delusions with but slight troubles of the intelligence as yet. And it is only one and a half month since the initial mental symptoms were noticed. From these facts we can infer that OKAWA's actual condition obviously belongs to the initial stage of the disease. However, although it is an initial condition presenting but few symptoms of intellectual disorders we can by no means call it a condition of merely slight mental abnormality. An intense and exalted sense of self, grandiose delusions that make him believe in any impossibilities, an attention that fluctuates constantly from one thing to another--all those morbid symptoms make it difficult for OKAWA to secure calm judgment, careful thinking and orderly conduct. The actual condition of Okawa, speaking out and doing as he does anything on the spot of the moment, must be considered as a seriously psychotic state. Consequently when he will assist at the Military Tribunal and receive the indictment, what will govern Okawa's mind will most likely be violent passions and uncontrolled delusions of grandeur, and never the moderation and mature deliberation that are to be expected from him in his normal state. His present frame of mind is comparable to the strongly exalted mental condition caused by drinking. Therefore OKAWA is actually incapable of making such responsible conduct as in his normal health, nor should

those around him expect this from his present self. This all the more true in case where the object to be considered requires calm, rational and critical thinking. It follows that it is almost utterly impossible for OKAWA in his present mental condition to judge of such an important matter as pleading to the indictment, a matter of greatest weight both personally and internationally. It is widely recognized in judicial psychiatry that all competency is to be denied in a case of general paralysis that has not been submitted to treatment or that of a marked manic condition.

The discovery of the fever therapy for general paralysis is one of the greatest progresses made in modern medicine. Its effectiveness is the more conspicuous the earlier the stage of the disease. Therefore if the treatment proceeds smoothly there is a great possibility that OKAWA will obtain a fairly good recovery from his pathological mental condition, severe as it is. It may not even be impossible for him to regain a full capacity for assuming responsibility. Thus I close this report by expressing the desire from a medical point of view that an adequate treatment be given to OKAWA as soon as possible.

Conclusion

The mental condition of Dr. Shumei OKAWA since the end of April, 1946, up to the present is a manic state due to general paralysis, a syphilitic disease of the brain. Its present stage is fairly advanced and is to be considered as greatly impeding his capacity to plead to the indictment.

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/s/ Yushi Uchimura